

Whatcom Seniors Golf Association (WSG) Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the **Whatcom Seniors Golf Association (WSG)**.

Article II – Purpose

The purposes of the WSG are:

1. To promote interest in the game of golf among senior golfers in Whatcom County and surrounding areas.
2. To foster camaraderie, fellowship, and sportsmanship through organized golf competitions and social interaction.
3. To promote and uphold the traditions, etiquette, and integrity of the game of golf.
4. To provide a governing body to organize tournaments, establish standards of play, manage finances, and conduct WSG business.

The WSG is organized as a nonprofit social organization and may seek recognition as a 501(c)(7) social club under the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

1. Membership shall be open to any golfer who is 50 years of age or older.
2. Members are encouraged to maintain a valid handicap index recognized by the United States Golf Association (GHIN) or the World Handicap System (WHS).

Section 2. Membership Term and Fiscal Year

1. Membership shall be granted on an annual basis.
2. The fiscal year of the WSG shall be January 1 through December 31 unless otherwise determined by the Governing Board.

Section 3. Dues and Fees

1. Annual membership dues shall be established by the Governing Board.
2. Dues must be paid to maintain membership in good standing.
3. The Governing Board may prorate dues or establish reduced rates as appropriate.

Section 4. Member Conduct and Discipline

1. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the traditions of golf, proper etiquette, and acceptable pace of play.
2. Any member whose conduct reflects discredit upon the WSG or who fails to comply with WSG rules may be subject to suspension or expulsion.
3. Disciplinary action shall require ten (10) days' written notice and an opportunity to be heard, and a two-third vote of the Governing Board.

Article IV – Governing Board

Section 1. Composition

The Governing Board shall consist of:

- The Executive Board officers
- One representative from each golf course represented in the WSG membership, when available

Each Board member shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 2. Authority and Duties

The Governing Board shall exercise all powers of management of the WSG, including:

- Establishing policies and standards of play
- Approving budgets and financial controls
- Setting membership dues
- Overseeing tournaments and operations, including membership.
- Appointing committees and assistants as needed

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum

1. The President shall call meetings of the Governing Board as deemed necessary.
2. A quorum shall consist of a majority of Board members present.
3. Meetings may be held in person or electronically.

Article V – Executive Board Officers

Section 1. Officers

The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers:

- President
- Vice President / Tournament Coordinator
- Administrator
- Treasurer
- Scorer
- Awards Coordinator

Section 2. Election and Term

1. Officers shall be elected by the Governing Board at a duly called meeting.
2. Officers shall serve one-year terms and may be re-elected.

Section 3. Duties of Executive Board Officers

President

- Provide leadership, vision, and oversight for the WSG.
- Oversee implementation of board-approved policies, tournament standards, and operational plans.
- Preside over meetings and represent the WSG in external matters.
- Serve as the primary representative of WSG in dealings with golf courses, vendors, partners, and external organizations.
- Guide bylaw review, revisions, and 501(c)(7) nonprofit status, ensuring compliance with legal and IRS requirements.

Vice President / Tournament Coordinator

- Assist the President in planning, coordination, and oversight all WSG tournaments.
- Serve as primary liaison with golf courses for tournament logistics.
- Coordinate with the Treasurer, Scorer, Prizes, and Course Reps to ensure smooth tournament-day operations.
- Coordinate tournament setup with GolfSoftware.com, ensuring accurate event listings, sign-ups, and communication.
- Assist the President as determined and act in the President's absence.

Administrator

- Record accurate minutes of Governing Board and membership meetings.
- Maintain official WSG records, including bylaws, policies, resolutions, and meeting minutes.
- Distribute meeting agendas, minutes, and official communications as directed by the President or Governing Board.
- Ensure proper documentation is maintained to support potential nonprofit compliance and continuity of leadership.

Treasurer

- Maintain custody and management of WSG funds and financial records.
- Oversee membership payments, including checks, Zelle transactions, and online payments through the website.
- Prepare financial documentation required for 501(c)(7) nonprofit status and annual filings (Form 990-N, if applicable).
- Maintain accurate membership lists including new and returning members.
- Pay approved expenses and provide regular financial reports.

Scorer

- Serve as the official scorer for all WSG tournaments.
- Manage scoring through the designated scoring system (e.g., GolfSoftware.com).
- Verify scorecard completeness, signatures, and compliance with tournament rules.
- Post official results in a timely manner and coordinate with the Awards and Competition Chair for prize distribution.
- Assist in resolving scoring discrepancies in coordination with the Tournament Coordinator.

Awards Coordinator

- The Award's Coordinator shall negotiate for the best available golf balls at the best price.
- The Award's Coordinator may determine other appropriate prizes.
- Manage prize inventory and distribution.
- Coordinate with the Treasurer regarding prize budgets and purchasing decisions.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of course representatives and identify gaps where new reps are needed.

Article VI – Tournaments and Standards of Play**Section 1. Handicaps**

1. Members shall maintain a USGA or WHS recognized handicap.
2. Golfers without an established handicap may participate but shall not be eligible for prizes.

Section 2. Rules of Play

1. USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, supplemented by WSG local rules.
2. "Winter Rules" shall apply unless otherwise announced.

Section 3. Prizes

1. Golf balls shall be the standard tournament prize unless otherwise approved.
2. Additional prizes may be awarded with Board approval.

Article VII – Financial Administration

1. WSG funds shall be deposited in a financial institution approved by the Board.
2. Only one signature shall be required for disbursement of funds, either the Treasurer or an appointed Executive Board member.

3. Financial records shall be available for Board review.

Article VIII – Bylaws/Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-third majority vote of the Governing Board.

Article IX – Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the WSG, remaining assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit organization supporting the game of golf, as determined by a two-third majority vote of the Governing Board.

Appendix A – Rules and Policies (Adopted by Board Resolution)

The following Rules and Policies govern all WSG tournaments and events. These policies may be amended by action of the Governing Board without requiring amendment of the Bylaws.

A1. Tournament Registration and Participation

1. All tournament registrations shall be completed through WSG's designated registration system.
2. Members are expected to honor their commitment to play once registered.
3. If members who have signed up for a tournament know they will not be participating they must withdraw through the registration system, no later than five (5) days prior to the tournament.
4. Failure to withdraw by the deadline will result in a \$10 no-show fee, payable at the member's next tournament participation. The scorer will review the tournament field and report any "no-shows" to the treasurer for collection of the \$10 no-show fee.
5. Tournament payments shall be made at the host golf course unless otherwise announced.

A2. Pace of Play

Pace of play is essential to the enjoyment of members and the reputation of the WSG.

1. Players shall always play Ready Golf.
2. Groups must keep pace with the group immediately in front of them.
3. Players must comply with course marshals and tournament officials.
4. If instructed to skip a hole to maintain pace, players shall record the maximum score for that hole.

A3. Handicaps

1. The WSG recognizes only GHIN and World Handicap System (WHS) handicap indexes.
2. Each member is responsible for entering and maintaining an accurate handicap index.
3. Handicaps will be monitored on a random basis for accuracy.
4. Failure to maintain or accurately report a handicap may result in loss of handicap privileges for the remainder of the season.
5. Members without an established handicap may compete but are not eligible for prizes.

A4. Scoring and Maximum Score

1. GolfSoftware.com shall be the official scoring platform of the WSG.
2. Completed scorecards must be signed, attested, and submitted to the clubhouse or designated tournament official immediately following play. The scorecards must have the first and last name of each member of their group.

3. The maximum score per hole shall be double par.

A5. Rules of Play and Local Rules

1. The USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, supplemented by WSG and course local rules.
2. Winter Rules shall apply at all WSG tournaments.
3. Lost Ball or Out of Bounds:
 - o One (1) stroke penalty.
 - o Drop the ball where it entered the out-of-bounds area.
 - o Provisional balls shall not be played.
4. Search time for a lost ball shall not exceed three (3) minutes.
5. Relief Rules:
 - o Six (6) inches relief in the rough.
 - o One (1) club length relief in the fairway.
 - o Balls may not be teed up except on designated tee boxes.

A6. Tee Box Policy

1. Two tee boxes shall be used for each tournament: designated forward tees and white tees.
2. Members must select their tee box during tournament registration.
3. Members must play the entire round from the tee box selected.
4. Tee box selection may be changed only from tournament to tournament, not during a tournament.

A7. Tournament Formats and Prizes

1. Standard tournament formats shall be determined by the Executive Board.
2. Golf balls shall be the standard prize unless otherwise approved.
3. Awards and prize distribution shall be based on net and gross scoring.
4. Special formats or competitions may be introduced at the discretion of the Governing Board.

A8. Sportsmanship

1. Members are expected to demonstrate integrity, honesty, and respect for fellow competitors.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disciplinary action under Article III of the Bylaws.

A9. Annual Tournaments

1. The WSG shall conduct designated annual tournaments as approved by the Governing Board.
2. Tournament-specific rules and formats shall be communicated in advance of play.
3. The WSG shall hold an annual 36-hole Herm Stevens Tournament, at a time and place designated by the President, subject to approval by the Board. The winners of the annual Herm Stevens Tournament and awards will be announced upon completion of the WSG season.

Adopted by the Whatcom Seniors Golf Association Governing Board

Date: February 2, 2026